



Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

AGAINST ALL ODDS

When she was nineteen months old, Helen Keller **suffered from** a severe illness that eventually left her without the sense of sight or hearing. It also left her mute. This, however, did not **rob her of** the ability to love or be loved.

When she was six years old, Helen Keller's parents sought Alexander Graham Bell's advice regarding their daughter's education. As a result, Anne Mansfield Sullivan, a twenty-year-old teacher, arrived at the Kellers' home in Alabama. Sullivan herself had been both treated and educated at the Perkins Institute in Boston, where she had partially recovered her sight.

Helen Keller herself said that the most important day of her entire life was the one on which her teacher arrived. On their first morning together, her teacher gave her a doll and slowly fingerspelt the word 'doll' into the palm of her hand using the manual alphabet. Helen found this finger play very interesting and immediately tried to imitate it. It did not take her long to form the letters correctly. However, she had no idea that she was spelling words or that these words existed as representations of the objects that surrounded her.

It took her several weeks, often filled with frustration, to understand that everything has a name. One day, her teacher **persisted in** trying to teach her the difference between 'mug' and 'water'. Helen, unable to tell them apart, threw her doll in a rage and broke it into many pieces. Her teacher then took her to the well house in the garden and placed her hand into a cool stream. At the same time she fingerspelt the word 'water' in Helen's other hand. At this moment, the mystery of language was revealed to her and it was the beginning of her familiarisation with the objects around her.

Another difficulty Helen had to overcome was the meaning of abstract words such as 'love'. Her teacher fingerspelt the word into her hand and Helen reacted by asking, 'What is love?' Anne replied by placing her hand over Helen's heart and said, 'It is here'. Helen became confused and started asking lots of questions in order to discover what 'love' actually was. Unfortunately, despite her teacher's responses, she could not understand and became very impatient.

A day or so later, when Helen was trying to string some beads of various sizes together, her teacher touched her forehead and fingerspelt the word 'think'. Helen instantly realised that this was the name of the abstract process that was going on in her head. In the same way, she tried to find the meaning of the word 'love'. When the sun came out from behind a cloud, Helen insisted, 'Is this not love?' Anne turned to her and replied that love is something like the clouds that were in the sky before the sun came out. 'You cannot touch the clouds, but you can feel the rain,' she told her. 'In the same way, you cannot touch love, but you can feel the sweetness that it pours into everything.' Helen immediately understood this beautiful truth and felt that her spirit was somehow connected to the spirit of her teacher and everyone around her.

Exam tip

- Read the whole text quite quickly for general understanding.
- Then read the questions and try to find the parts in the text that answer the questions or complete the sentences. You may underline these parts.
- Now read the options and choose the one that best matches the idea in the text.
- Look for the words and phrases with similar meanings in the options and the text.

1. Why did Anne Mansfield Sullivan join the Keller household?
 - A. She was half-blind and could help Helen.
 - B. She was recommended by Alexander Graham Bell.
 - C. She was a graduate of the Perkins Institute.
 - D. She was to be employed as Helen's companion.
2. What was it that impressed Helen most on the day her teacher arrived?
 - A. the doll she received
 - B. the manual alphabet
 - C. the finger play
 - D. the words she spelt
3. When did Helen realise that everything around her had names?
 - A. when her teacher took her to the well house
 - B. when she broke her doll into many pieces
 - C. when her teacher taught her the meaning of 'mug'
 - D. when she learnt to fingerspell
4. Why was the word 'love' difficult for Helen to understand?
 - A. She had never experienced it before.
 - B. She didn't know what a heart was.
 - C. She couldn't touch 'love'.
 - D. She couldn't fingerspell the word.
5. When did Helen's teacher finally make her understand the meaning of the word 'love'?
 - A. when she made Helen feel the warmth of the sun
 - B. when she expressed her love to Helen
 - C. when she compared love to the clouds
 - D. when she explained the connection between her and Helen

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- What traits do you think made Miss Sullivan a good teacher for Helen Keller?
- What types of personalities are you attracted to the most? Why?

Match the adjectives in column 2 with their synonyms in column 1 and antonyms/opposites in column 3.

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

1	2	3
childish, immature	comic	calm, easy-going
amusing, hilarious	dull	kind, polite
mean, ill-mannered	infantile	creative, interesting
boring, characterless	irritable	serious, adult
hot-tempered, moody	rude	tragic, depressing

Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. Some prepositions may be used more than once.

about on at for from in of

- After three weeks I finally **recovered** _____ a terrible cold.
- How could you **mistake** George _____ his brother? They don't look anything like each other.
- Our family **consists** _____ six members.
- The media have repeatedly **praised** her _____ being active in the fight against child malnutrition.
- Before your first job interview, why don't you **invest** _____ a nice suit to wear?
- I **warned** you _____ Michael's laziness, but you wouldn't listen.
- Don't you think it's silly to **waste** money _____ something you will only be able to wear maybe once a year?
- I **apologise** _____ shouting at you earlier; I don't react so well under pressure.
- She's naturally shy, so you'll never catch her **boasting** _____ what she's achieved.
- Why are you **staring** _____ that girl? Is it the first time you've seen someone who's dyed their hair purple?

Say 'cheese'!

Did the need for seeing our own image in a public space start with reality TV and then move on to selfies on social media sites? Children are turned into selfie stars from an early age by parents posting their photos on social media sites and the trend (6) _____ into old age. After all, what's the harm in posting a picture of yourself drinking coffee, with the caption, 'It's 5 a.m. and I (7) _____ coffee while watching the sun come up'? Isn't it just a way to let your friends know what's going on in your life and to entertain them? And how about photobombing? Doesn't jumping into other people's photos show that you're media aware and (8) _____ a sense of humour?

Then there are the five-year-old selfie stars, living jet-set lives with their families just because they look cute. Adults who are fans of such young stars comment that their day is not complete without seeing their picture, and some say that they love them more than their own children. (9) _____ these young children growing up taking pride in their fame and appearance and ignoring what talents and skills they may have? Are the parents doing harm to them or (10) _____ them a way out of poverty and anonymity?

- continue
 - continues
 - is continuing
 - has continued
- drink
 - am drinking
 - have drunk
 - have been drinking
- have
 - are having
 - having
 - have had
- Have
 - Do
 - Are
 - Don't
- it gives
 - it is giving
 - has it given
 - does it give